

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEAE-00 IO-13
ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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MCT-01 /097 W
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P 131403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5698
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2609

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: ALLON SPEAKS OUT ON SOUTH LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 2577

1. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW APRIL 12 FOREIGN MINISTER
ALLON DISCUSSED ISRAELI POLICY TOWARD SOUTH LEBANON.
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME THAT ALLON HAS "GONE PUBLIC" TO SUCH AN EXTENT
REGARDING ISRAELI GOALS AND ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON.

2. ASKED WHAT PRINCIPLES GUIDE ISRAEL'S POLICY
TOWARD SOUTH LEBANON AT THE PRESENT TIME, ALLON
RESPONDED: "I WOULD SAY THERE WERE FOUR. ISRAEL
WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PENETRATION OF SYRIAN OR
PAN-ARAB FORCES SOUTH OF THEIR EXISTING POSITIONS.
SECOND, ISRAEL WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
AGREE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST IT, WHETHER
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BY FIRING SHELLS AND KATYUSHAS ACROSS THE BORDER
OR THROUGH INFILTRATION OF FORCES INTO OUR
TERRITORY. THIRD, ISRAEL WILL NOT ACCEPT OR
TOLERATE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE LEBANESE VILLAGES
WHICH ARE CLOSE TO ITS BORDER AND CONSIDERED BY
IT TO BE FRIENDLY. WE, AS JEWS, WILL NOT
TOLERATE MASSACRES. THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

AND LAST OF ALL, NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY OF THE OPEN GATES IN THE GOOD FENCE WILL BE TOLERATED."

3. THE QUESTIONER THEN ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER THE PRESENT SITUATION REQUIRES ANY INTERVENTION BY ISRAEL. ALLON REPLIED: "NOT YET. THE TERRORISTS' FORCES HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, NOT WITH THE DIRECT AID OF THE SYRIAN ARMY, BUT CERTAINLY WITH SYRIAN BLESSING. SYRIA HAS HELPED THEM BY GIVING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT TO THEIR FORCES, FROM AREA TO AREA, BY PROVIDING WAR MATERIAL AND, I ASSUME, BY POLITICAL PERMISSION. THE TERRORISTS' UNITS HAVE TAKEN OVER SEVERAL OF THE CHRISTIAN POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES THEMSELVES, AND THE RESULTS ARE KNOWN."

4. THE DISCUSSION ALSO FOCUSED ON THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. ALLON SAID: "THE UNITED STATES IS INTERESTED IN PREVENTING A MILITARY ESCALATION. IT IS REPRESENTED BY ITS AMBASSADORS IN ISRAEL (SIC), SYRIA AND LEBANON AND IT IS MAINTAINING WHAT I WOULD CALL SIMULTANEOUS CONTACTS WITH THE THREE SIDES. WE, AT LEAST, HAVE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS TO OUR POLICY ON SOUTH LEBANON."

5. ALLON WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT HE BELIEVED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SYRIANS ARE AFRAID THAT IF THE TERRORISTS GO TOO FAR, IT WOULD RESULT IN ISRAELI INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTS A CEASE-FIRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE: "THE CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN DRIVE OUT OF THOSE CONCENTRATIONS OR FROM THOSE POSITIONS WHICH SPREAD OUT BEYOND THE PURELY CHRISTIAN AREA AND I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF IT TURNS OUT THAT WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD THERE IS A CEASE-FIRE ON THAT FRONT."

6. AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW ALLON SUMMED UP ISRAELI POLICY BY NOTING THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES TO DESIRE A UNITED AND INDEPENDENT LEBANON: "THE LAST THING I WOULD WANT IS A MILITARY ESCALATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. WE DO HAVE A STATE OF WAR WITH LEBANON IMPOSED ON US, BUT WE HAVE NO TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OF ANY SORT, AND WE WANT A UNITED, INDEPENDENT, FLOURISHING LEBANON, WHICH HAS NO FOREIGN FORCES IN IT, AND I WOULD BE SORRY

IF THE SITUATION DOES NOT RETURN TO WHAT IT WAS."

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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